

Andrew Jackson to John Forsyth, June 7, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN FORSYTH.

Washington, June 7, 1830.

Sir, I have received your letter of the 2d instant inclosing a copy of one from you to Mr Calhoun of the 31st ultimo, and his reply thereto, all which I have duly noted.

You have requested a copy of Mr. Calhoun' letter to me of the 29th of May last, for the purpose of shewing it to mr Crawford. Mr Calhoun in his reply to you, does not consent, nor yet object to your being furnished with a copy, but refers the matter to my discretion.

A copy of the original letter of Mr Crawford to you, having been submitted to me, it occurred as being proper and correct, that you should be apprised of Mr Calhouns answer, and therefore it was shewn to you. I cannot on reflection perceive any impropriety in now according to you the request you have made, particularly as on your refering this matter to Mr Calhoun, he does not object. I accordingly send it with this injunction, that it be used for no other purpose but the one you have stated, "to be shewn to mr Crawford".

In the letter which you addressed to mr Calhoun, you state as follows, "Having at the request of the President to be informed what took place in the Cabinet of Mr Monroe on the subject of the Seminole campaign, laid before him a copy (except the omission of a name) of a letter from Mr. Crawford etc. etc."—This is construed by Mr Calhoun into a declaration, that I requested you to furnish me with the information, I am satisfied it was not by you so understood, and I would be glad you would so explain to him. I never conversed with you upon this subject previous to the time, when you sent me mr

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Crawford's letter. The facts are these. I had been informed, mr Crawford had made a statement concerning this business which had come to the knowledge of Col James A. Hamilton of N. Y. on meeting with Col Hamilton I enquired of him and received for answer that he had; but remarked, that he did not think it proper to be communicated without the consent of the writer. I answered, that being informed that the marshal of this District had, to a friend of mine, made a similar statement to that, which was alleged to have been made by Mr Crawford, I would be glad to see Mr Crawford's statement, and desired he would write and obtain his consent. My reasons for this request, were, that I had, from the friendly professions of Mr Calhoun always believed him my friend throout all this seminole business, and had therefore a desire to know if in this I had been mistaken, and whether it was possible for Mr Calhoun to have acted with such insincerity and duplicity towards me. I have inclosed a copy of this letter to mr Calhoun, and am Sir, with respectful regard

yr mo obdt. Servt.